Dear Jim, Playboy's riposte - The Puppet (on Hughes) 10/16/76

I finished reading this jazzed-up crap while resting after 2 hours and 20 minutes of uninterrupted digging out of the inlet to the pond and hauling the wet dirt to where I ould use it. Fatigue probably makes me more temperate.

For all the heavy TV attention this garbage got a while back - I was sent the piece but did not have time to read it and Playboy does not date its pages - there is, with one exception, nothing new in it. They could have ripposed on muc more effectively than they did. The researchx preparatory to stealing was not all that good.

It seems new to most, I suppose, and to the newsless TV news people on the morning shows, because they don't read.

Spoke to Art Kevin the other day. He was incensed because they not only stole his stuff but told him where to go when he complained. He broke the Virginio Gonzalez-Meier story. (My file on this seems to have disappeared.) I happen not to trust the Gonzalez affidavit but thefact it is was Art's story. They told Art that once anything is published it becomes public domain.

One of the authoris is Laurence Gonzales, who worked as articles editor on their assassination series. When I complained Gonzales told me the same thing, attributing it to their lawyers.

What is new and was on TV is apochrophal. It is in 183. They say, with no proof laimed or cited, that it is a CIA memo to Hughes on paying named Senators and Congressmen on the right. My belief is that if they believed this is a legit document they'd have printed it in facsimile. They say only that one they say is a CIA agent gave it to Meier, whose credibility is is not good to begin with. Meier is their claimed source.

The next instalment is to be in the November issue.

I note this as part of a pattern of stealing.

Best,